



Walker River Paiute Tribe

Elected Official:

Chairman: Bobby Sanchez

Environmental Director: Vacant

GAP Coordinator: Cynthia Ocegueda

Land Base: 325,000 acres

Primary Economy: Grazing, Ranching

Population and Poverty (2010 Census): 850 residents live on the Reservation; 32.5% of whom live below the poverty level.

Educational Attainment (of persons over 25): 67.9% have at least a high school diploma, 5.1% have a bachelor's or graduate degree.

EPA Funding (2015-16)

GAP	\$66,600
Network Exchange	\$300,000
Air	\$35,000
CWA 106	\$164,520
CWA 319	\$30,000
Superfund	\$40,000
	\$636,120.00

Clean Water Act Programs

The Tribe receives funding under Clean Water Act Sections 106 and 319. Under 106, the Tribe operates eight water quality monitoring stations, at which every quarter, they conduct grab sampling for basic constituents and metals. Under 319, the Tribe has engaged in a number of successful efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution in the past. Water from the Walker River irrigates grazing land and provides fish for the community's subsistence. The Tribe is currently in the process of receiving TAS to administer the CWA water quality standards and water quality certification programs. Water quality standards are under development.

Contact: Stephanie Wilson, (775) 885-6190

**GAP**

The GAP program is providing funding for meetings and training, outreach and education to the community, and coordinating with IHS on the completion of the transfer station. *Contact: Veronica Swann, (415) 972-3699*

Solid Waste

EPA has concerns with a large illegal landfill the Tribe is currently using. The transfer station has a recycling staging area, but it is not being utilized due to design flaws that have yet to be corrected. IHS is currently working with the Tribe to remodel the transfer station and to close the existing landfill.

Contact: Jenny Stephenson, (415)-972-3429

Drinking Water

The Tribe's drinking water source is affected by naturally occurring arsenic. An arsenic treatment plant was constructed and came on-line in June of 2008. Partially assisted by a solar power installation donated to the tribe which helps keep operating costs down, the Tribe is currently in compliance with the revised arsenic standard.

Contact: Karl Banks, (415) 972-3557

Anaconda Mine Issues (Superfund)

Assessment is underway to determine the effect the site has had on groundwater quality and possible contamination of soils. The Tribe continues to work closely with regulatory agencies, local government and the responsible Activities associated with this CAG include participation in the various site working groups, providing input on the development of work plans and other site documents and commenting on site activities. Dropping commodity prices have raised questions as to whether re-mining can be a part of the cleanup solution at the site. The Tribe has voiced support for placing the site on the NPL. A 2005 USGS study showed mine-related contaminants traveled during a large flood event to the Webber Reservoir within the reservation and deposited on the lake bottom. The Tribe reportedly owns property where the Wabuska Drain enters the Walker River. *Contacts: Dave Seter, 415-972-3250 and Dante Rodriguez, 415-972-3166*

Bombing Range

Tribal lands abut a Naval Air Station to the north; active bombing ranges associated with Fallon are immediately adjacent to Tribal lands. There are several areas on the Reservation that are not accessible, as they are bombing-range "overrun" areas, and live munitions have been located there in the past. This issue was the main objection EPA raised in comments on a recent Fallon Range Training Complex Environmental Impact Statement (rated *Environmental Objections – Insufficient Information* or EO-2) and EPA staff coordinated closely with the Tribe on our comments. As a result, communications between the Tribe and the Navy improved and the Tribe is working to rebuild their relationship with the Department of Defense and the U.S. Navy to address these concerns. The Tribe received a special Congressional Appropriation of approximately \$200,000 in 2005 to assess the extent of unexploded ordinance (UXO) on the Reservation; the Tribe has a significant amount of these funds remaining, and is in the process of revising a workplan to spend the remaining funds.
Contact: Veronica Swann, (415) 972-3699

Air Quality Monitoring

The Tribe receives Clean Air Act funding, and operates the only ambient air quality monitoring system in Mineral County, monitoring for PM10 and PM2.5. Air quality concerns include a coal-fired power plant three miles northwest of the Reservation, mercury and other HAPs, activities at Fallon Bombing Ranges adjacent to the Reservation, and backyard and wood stove smoke for residents. *Contact: Roy Ford, (415) 972-3997*

Underground Storage Tank Facility

The Tribe has one active Underground Storage Tank (UST) facility and one that has been in temporary closure for over 15 years. An inspection was done at the Walker River site by a contractor last summer. The station is not dispensing gas and can stay in temporary closure indefinitely as long as it meets the 1998 upgrade requirements. *Contact: Bobby Ojha, (415)-972-3374*

Exchange Network

The Tribe is in year three of a three-year, \$450,000 award under the Exchange Network to increase tribal participation in the Exchange Network by five tribes via the Tribal Environmental Exchange Network (TREN).
Contact: Pat Eklund, (415) 972-3738

Grants

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a report on the Walker River Paiute Tribe in June 2015 which reflected \$994,963 of questioned costs. EPA and the Tribe provided a response to the OIG and the response was accepted by the OIG on February 23, 2016. The Tribe worked cooperatively with EPA staff through the seven Recommendations which resulted in \$105,023 of disallowed costs. EPA, Region 9 will work with Walker River Paiute Tribe to recover the funds.